

and no proof which of the two did the deed. If we suppose that either one or the other murdered the child, there is nothing in the conduct of the remaining party, or in the evidence generally, which might not be perfectly well explained on the principle that he or she acted with the view of keeping quiet what the murderer was endeavouring to pass off as the delivery of a still-born child. We are of opinion, then, that the court acted hastily in executing the prisoner Beasse, and feel convinced that he would have escaped either in an English or Scotch court of justice."—*Ed. Med. and Surg. Journ. April, 1831.*

MEDICAL STATISTICS.

58. *Medical Statistics of the Royal Maternity Charity.*—During the year 1830, there were delivered in the Eastern District of the Royal Maternity Charity, under the superintendence of Dr. F. H. Ramsbotham,

2221 WOMEN, of which cases

- 26 were twins—about 1 in every 85½ cases; of these, in 15 cases both heads presented; in 9, the presentation was a head and a breech; in 1, both were breech; and in 1, a head and a shoulder.
- 1161 were males.
- 1086 were females.
- 2181 were presentations of some part of the head; of which
 - 8 were face presentations—about 1 in every 273 cases.
- 59 were presentations of the breech, or some part of the lower extremities—about 1 in every 39 cases.
- 7 were presentations of the shoulder, or some part of the upper extremities—about 1 in every 321 cases; of these, 1 was a second child of twins;
- 1 was terminated by the process called *spontaneous evolution*; and 1 was complicated, with an adherent placenta.
- 1 was an entire placental presentation.
- 1 was a partial placental presentation, in which, as well as in the entire placental presentation, it was necessary to deliver by *turning*, as the hæmorrhage did not abate on the membranes being ruptured.
- 7 were complicated with *dangerous* hæmorrhage before delivery; not the consequence of placental presentations;—about 1 in every 317 cases. All these cases were delivered naturally, the hæmorrhage ceasing or greatly diminishing on the membranes being ruptured.
- 20 were complicated with an adherent, or retained placenta, requiring removal by the introduction of the hand into the uterus—about 1 in every 111 cases. One of these cases was after a shoulder presentation; and two of them were under twins.
- 11 were complicated with *dangerous* hæmorrhage after the natural expulsion of the placenta—about 1 in every 202 cases.
- 1 was delivered by craniotomy, under hydrocephalus.
- 4 were delivered by the forceps; two by the long—two by the short: about 1 in every 555 cases.
- 4 were complicated with puerperal convulsions; three before delivery—one after; about 1 in every 555 cases. One of the patients was delivered by *turning*; the other cases terminated naturally.
- 1 case of apoplexy occurred twenty-four hours after labour.
- In 2 premature labour was induced in consequence of narrow pelvis—about 1 in 1110. Both the children were born dead. For one of these patients I had induced labour prematurely three times before; the other I had delivered by means of the long forceps twice previously.
- 1 fetus was acephalous.

In 1 case there was what is termed a *secondary fœtus*.

14 women died—1 in every 158½ cases.

2168 children were born alive.

79 were born still—about 1 in every 28½ cases.

Of the Deaths.

- 1 was on the fourth day after craniotomy had been performed, in consequence of the fœtal head being hydrocephalic. She died from inflammation of the pelvis, and commencing sphacelus in the vagina, induced by the pressure of the head during labour.
- 2 died from pulmonary disease; one on the sixth day after delivery, from confirmed phthisis; the other a fortnight after delivery, from pneumonia, which commenced towards the close of gestation, was checked for a time, but returned with increased violence after the birth of the child. This woman had a narrow pelvis; she had had fourteen children: on one occasion craniotomy had been performed; premature labour had been induced five times,—four times by a gentleman now retired from practice, the last by my father and myself in February, 1829. Her labours had all been difficult, except when brought on prematurely. On this occasion premature labour came on spontaneously, a few days before the time when I had determined to induce it artificially.
- 1 from a sudden eruption of blood on the ninth day after delivery, under a placental presentation. Every dangerous symptom had ceased; she appeared recovering favourably; I had discontinued my attendance, when I was summoned hastily, and on my arrival at the house I found her dead.
- 1 on the sixth day after delivery of twins. I did not see the patient till the day before she died; I was then told that the labour had been natural and easy, but a draining of blood had continued ever since: she was evidently sinking from the loss. On examining the body after death, I found a portion of the placenta attached to the uterus, nearly the size of the palm of the hand. Improper attempts to remove the placenta had evidently been made by the midwife.
- 1 from a ruptured uterus; it was her fourth child; all the children had been born naturally, though dead; her labours had all been lingering, owing to diminished space in the conjugate diameter of the brim of the pelvis. When I saw her first, the membranes had been ruptured fourteen hours; I left her for two hours, and during my absence the uterus ruptured itself. I immediately turned the child, but was obliged to perforate the head before I could extract it. The rent was transverse in the anterior part of the cervix uteri, and sufficiently large to admit the hand readily into the cavity of the abdomen, into which the whole of the child, except the head, had escaped. She appeared to rally for a few hours; but afterwards gradually sunk, and died on the fourth day after delivery.
- 1 on the fourth day after delivery by the long forceps: she was much exhausted when the operation was performed, and continued sinking till she died. Her pelvis was considerably smaller at the brim in its conjugate diameter than natural. This was her third child: under all her labours, I delivered her by the same instrument.
- 2 from peritonitis; one on the fourth day, the other a fortnight after delivery. Both labours were natural and easy.
- 4 from the effects of adherent placenta. One on the tenth day after delivery, of irritative fever: it was a first child; the labour had been very lingering; the placenta was firmly adherent throughout its whole extent, and removed with great difficulty. The whole was brought away, and there was a very small quantity of blood lost.—One was on the ninth day: on the fourth day after delivery she was recovering well; she was afterwards suddenly taken ill, a neighbouring practitioner was sent for, and I did not hear of her again till I was informed of her death.—One on the sixteenth day: she

sunk under constant and violent shivering fits, which continued from the third day after delivery till her death. There had been comparatively a small quantity of blood lost, but she was very much depressed by it.—The other on the third day, with symptoms exactly such as would be produced by an over-dose of opium. I had ordered her ten minims of laudanum every four hours, and as she had only taken three doses, I at first suspected that the medicine had not been properly prepared. On comparing the remainder, however, with another quantity made according to the same prescription, I could not detect the slightest difference in colour, taste, or smell. Her death may be accounted for in two ways; either the system was peculiarly susceptible of the influence of opium, or, what is more likely, the stupor proceeded from the excessive loss of blood she had sustained; as we sometimes see convulsions the consequence of violent hæmorrhage. The comatose state continued for 15 or 16 hours, and it was with the greatest difficulty she could be roused even to put out her tongue. I never before met with a similar case.

- 1 of irritative fever, 17 days after the expulsion of putrid twins, at six months; one was expelled two days before the other. There was a slight hæmorrhage after the birth of the second. I removed the placenta, which were both partly in the vagina, partly retained in utero by the closing of the os uteri upon them. This constriction, and the smallness of the uterine cavity, prevented the introduction of my hand, but both placenta were extracted whole.

Of the Stillborn Children.

- 25 were premature.
 - 9 were putrid at full time, or nearly so.
 - 9 were breech presentations at full time, or nearly so.
 - 4 were shoulder presentations.
 - 1 was under a placental presentation.
 - 1 was after the mother had suffered from accidental hæmorrhage before delivery.
 - 3 were after the mothers had suffered from puerperal convulsions.
 - 2 were delivered by the long forceps.
 - 1 was hydrocephalic; delivered by craniotomy.
 - 2 were after the induction of premature labour.
 - 1 was under a ruptured uterus.
 - 1 was acephalous.
- With 6 the funis prolapsed by the side of the head, and could not be returned. In one of these cases the vagina was much constricted from sloughing after a former lingering labour; I was compelled to divide the stricture by a scalpel.

- 14 were at full time, head presenting; not putrid, nor delivered by art.

The number of deaths last year was greater than the average proportion in this charity; this may, perhaps, be accounted for in some degree by the prevalence of a puerperal epidemic of a very fatal character, which raged during the commencement of the year in the eastern and north-eastern extremities and suburbs of the town. For, although not one of the patients of the Maternity Charity died of that specific disease, still during its continuance they appeared to suffer more than usual from accidental occurrences, which at other times would probably pass without producing any serious consequences. I particularly remarked that they did not recover so readily after hæmorrhage as I am accustomed to see them, and I suspect that the same condition of the atmosphere which favoured the spreading of the epidemic—without exactly inducing the prevalent disease—predisposed all puerperal women to various unhealthy actions on the application of any exciting cause.—*Lond. Med. Gaz. March, 1831.*

59. *Effects of Manufactures upon Health and Longevity.*—In an interesting